

# MEMORANDUM

From Chief, SME

To Dr M. Kaplan, RPD

Date 16 May 1975

Attention:


Our ref.

Subject: ACMR (DR LEDERBERG) QUERY REGARDING  
SMALLPOX

Your ref.

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I should be most happy to discuss this matter with the ACMR as a committee or informally with Dr Lederberg, as is deemed best. The basic point is that eradication means just that and unless there is some animal host which we have no evidence for, smallpox should not recur. Should it reappear by some mechanism of which we are presently unaware, vaccination could rapidly be reintroduced. Smallpox does not explode, as influenza, but rather spreads in a comparatively slow fashion permitting effective control measures to be introduced. WHO envisages maintaining a vaccine reservoir and such also will be maintained by many other countries. The USA is doing something of this sort now but many others are doing the same.

  
D.A. Henderson, M.D.